

Address of Tyre Taylor, President,  
Young Democratic Clubs of America, to the  
State Convention,  
Young Democratic Clubs of Virginia,  
Richmond, Virginia,  
August 16, 1933.

I am happy to have this opportunity <sup>to</sup> meet with you again. I had the pleasure and privilege of attending your organization meeting here some 18 months ago and I want to congratulate your President and my friend, John Galliher, and every member and leader of the Y.D.Clubs of Va. on the progress made since that time.

I feel - and I shall always be grateful because you have given me reason to feel - that the Y.D. Clubs of Va. are peculiarly close to the National Organization. I know that John and Louise Galliher have responded - more than generously - to every call I have ever made upon them. I recall that without the influence and support of that distinguished Young Democrat and great American, Harry Byrd, the National Organization could probably never have been launched

because not all the members of the Senior Organization were at that time convinced of its practicability. I am conscious of the fine and sincere leadership that has been displayed in the movement here in Virginia, and that leadership has been both a challenge and an inspiration to us as we have gone about building the organization nationally. Every movement that amounts to much has its ideals, - is not unmindful of the precedents it sets and the traditions it establishes. The highest wish that I can have for the Young Dem. Clubs of America is that ultimately we shall have 48 State Divisions like the Young Dem. Clubs of Virginia, and this seems no more than fitting and proper when we recall that the unparalleled career and achievements of the first and greatest Young Democrat - Thomas Jefferson - are forever identified with the name and fame of Virginia.

At your Organization meeting, I tried to explain the larger plans and purposes of the National Organization. A great deal of water has, however, gone over

wheel since that time, and while our fundamental objectives remain the same, our method of approach has been adopted to rapidly changing conditions.

When you met before, Mr. Hoover and the Republicans were still in power, and because despair had settled over the land, we were a party of protest. In those days, America was tired and faltering and faith flickered.

Now, the Democrats and Franklin D. Roosevelt are at the helm and not only a "New Deal" but a new civilization and a new America are unfolding before our somewhat unbelieving eyes. There is hope and confidence abroad in the land, and these are based not upon Mr. Mellon's predictions, but upon the increasing crescendo of industry, the growing volume of employment, and a restored purchasing power. We are no longer a party of protest, but a party charged with one of the most poignant responsibilities in human history. If Franklin D. Roosevelt fails, the America that most of us know and believe in fails. We know that we can, that we must and that we shall succeed.

When you last met, the Y.D.Clubs of America was comprised of a few hundred scattered clubs in a dozen State organizations, with a total membership of around 300,000. Now your National Organization has been extended to 44 States. Some 3400 clubs number nearly 2,000,000 members and the Organization is still growing at an average rate of 70,000 per month. At our National Organization meeting in Washington last year, a total of 175 delegates registered. Our National Convention in Kansas City on Aug. 31, Sept. 1 - 2 will be attended by not less than 6,000 accredited delegates and by at least a thousand leaders of the Senior Organization. I mention these figures illustrating the amazing growth of our organization not in any spirit of boastfulness, but simply to illustrate the changing nature of our problems.

When you met before, by reason of the fact that we were still in an almost embryonic stage, our chief concern was to perform efficiently our designated role of errand boys and girls ~~and~~ in a presidential campaign.

Beyond this, and speaking practically - our primary responsibility was to the future because the Y.D. as an organized political army were little more than a dream of a few - as I have since been more than once convinced -exceedingly rash and optimistic young people.

Now the Y.D.Clubs of America is the official youth organization of the <sup>dominant</sup> ~~Democratic~~ party of the most powerful nation on earth. 25,000,000 citizens and voters are yet in their 20's and another 10,000,000 will reach voting age by 1936. Is it not clear that this organization is charged with <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ very definite responsibility of leadership? I say that no generation of young people was ever confronted by a greater opportunity, not only to be of immediate and practical service in backing our President and his program for recovery, but to shape the very civilization in which they have the largest stake. Not only America, but the whole world is in a state of transition. The molten mass is crystallizing <sup>out</sup> and we are witnesses and participants in the seemingly sudden, yet long process of history.

And we have our practical problems to consider.

For one thing, our National Organization must be placed upon a ~~stable~~ financial basis. It is subsisting at the present time on the bounty of the Dem. National Committee. We can never be sufficiently grateful to Mr. Farley for his generous and never-failing support, both moral and financial, <sup>but</sup> ~~and~~ the resources of the National Committee are in no sense adequate for its own needs. I am forming a National Finance Committee and by this time next year we should be out of the woods financially. We owe less than \$1,000.

Then, we urgently need a National publication which will be the mouthpiece of youth in politics and the official organ of the Y.D.Clubs of America. I am glad to announce that arrangements for this have been virtually perfected and you may expect the first issue in October. We have been working on this for more than a year and I believe that you will find it one of the most interesting and readable publications in the entire field of politics and public affairs.

I think we are soon going to be in a position to start formulating plans for a far reaching program of popular education in the problems of government. My ambition is to hold an annual institute in every town and city where we have a club and that it be under the club's auspices. Governments, no matter what their form, are responsive to the popular will, and our organization can render no more patriotic and worthwhile service than this.

Then, I think we shall miss a very great opportunity if we permit this movement to develop without some sort of program of physical training, and outdoor recreation. This may appear unnecessary to us here in the south, but in the densely populated centers the political club can supply an acute existing need by the establishment of inexpensive camps where young people can spend a few days for the actual cost of food and overhead.

I mention these things which are primarily of organization concern because you are met to take practical thought of the future of your own organization.

Of course, our immediate task is to assist in educating the public in the aims and methods of functioning of the National Recovery Administration, and we expect to have some very definite proposals ready to submit in this connection in Kansas City. In addition to this, however, we must, if we are to make our greatest contribution, think constantly and clearly of ways and means to strengthen and consolidate our organization. To this task, and to the support of our President and his program, your present officers pledge their best thought and efforts. I thank you for your gracious reception and hospitality. I hope to see you all in Kansas City.